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Letter dated 8 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Boris Trajkovski, I would like to draw your attention to the following matter that caused serious concern in the Republic of Macedonia and may endanger the overall security situation in the region, in spite of the efforts undertaken by the international community in the first place through the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR presence in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Notwithstanding the tireless efforts of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia aimed at strengthening the peace and stability in the region, demonstrated, *inter alia*, by receiving more than 360,000 refugees during the Kosovo crises, regretfully several incidents have taken place at the border of the Republic of Macedonia with Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The two most serious incidents, but of different nature and in a very short span, have recently occurred at the border with Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The first one took place on 2 April of this year. A patrol of four soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia was abducted while patrolling along the State border line with Kosovo in the section Gorni Kluc-Dolni Kluc, by a group of disguised people. The soldiers were held by force more than 24 hours on the territory of Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, after which they were released.

The second incident took place on 5 June 2000. Two soldiers of the border patrol of the Macedonian Army were wounded by sniper shots coming from the territory of Kosovo while trying to prevent illegal crossing in the vicinity of the Blace border crossing with Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In both cases, my Government launched a strong protest to UNMIK and KFOR officials, expressing deep concern over the incidents, and requested urgent investigation and undertaking immediate and resolute measures to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of these terrorist acts. At the same time, the Government has undertaken necessary measures to secure the State border and prevent further incidents.

I would also like to inform you that the President of the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Boris Trajkovski, sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), George Robertson, informing him of

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the situation and requesting NATO to undertake activities to secure the southern border of Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The occurrence of such incidents, most likely connected to the growing organized crime in Kosovo, presents a threat to the stability not only of the Republic of Macedonia but of the neighbouring countries as well, and could undermine our joint efforts for stabilizing and promoting security in the region, particularly in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and our strong interest in cooperation with UNMIK and KFOR respectively. My Government appreciates the role of UNMIK in the stabilization of the situation in Kosovo, which on its part positively affects the overall situation in the region. The present international civil and security presence in Kosovo, together with the concerted efforts of the international community, in particular through the process of the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe, should contribute to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Naste **Calovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative